

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 12-15 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,598,632 to Moreland *et al.* ("Moreland '632").

Without admitting that the rejection is correct, Applicants have amended claim 1 in an effort to advance prosecution. The Examiner asserts that the Moreland '632 teaches or suggests an obvious variant of the claimed non-ionic surfactant represented by formula (III). Claim 1 has been amended to no longer recite the non-ionic surfactant represented by formula (III). In this regard, Moreland '632 fails to teach or suggest the pneumatic tire recited in claim 1.

Further, claims 2-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-11 are nonobvious for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No. 10/809,519

Docket No.: Q80709

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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